stage. His charges that the Cadets were traitors and the Laborites weaklings met with an outburst of applause. He warmed up. "To support the Duma in its desperate attempts to support the throne? Is this a joke, comrades?" he screamed. And he called for mobilization of forces outside the Duma for direct revolutionary action.

This was Lenin's first public speech at a mass meeting in St. Petersburg. The impression was overwhelming. The audience booed down the Cadets who tried to reply to "Citizen Karpov," and his resolution was carried almost unanimously. Even a few well-known Cadets in the audience voted for it!

The popularity of the Duma was at a low ebb. Then came a new blow from the other side. The Tsar declined to see the Duma's Committee and let Prime Minister Goremykin deliver his reply to the people's representatives: "There will be no amnesty and no agrarian reform."

The moderates were at their wits' end. With only eleven dissenting votes, the Duma voted the resolution moved by the Laborites —a demand that the Cabinet resign and be replaced by one enjoying the confidence of the people. The attitude of the masses toward the Duma changed abruptly. There was no longer any doubt that the people would support the Duma in the event of an open break with the government. St. Petersburg was in a turmoil. The police suspended radical newspapers. Political gatherings were forbidden, but meetings were held in factories.

Again I found myself in a political whirlpool. With peasant members of the Duma, I went from factory to factory. My job was to introduce our guest speakers. Most of them were unaccustomed to flying meetings, some were not very articulate, and others were plainly nervous, but these things did not matter.

To check the growing popularity of the Duma, the government mobilized the Black Hundreds. Police rounded up criminals and the scum of the big cities and had them sign telegrams to the Tsar, imploring him to dissolve the Duma. The government published such telegrams with an expression of the Tsar's gratitude. The Duma countered with a campaign of interpellations about acts of lawlessness and brutality by local authorities—executions, torture of prisoners, floggings of peasants. The purpose of the moderates in this campaign was to show the Tsar how bad his ministers were. One of the Cadet leaders expressed this view eloquently:

"The Tsar cannot be wrong. He is not to blame for the evil done in his name. What is the meaning of the demand not to criticize the misdeeds committed allegedly on the order of His Majesty? Should we hold the Tsar responsible for all bloodshed by his ministers? Never!"